

**National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, DC 20594**

**Brief of Accident**

**Adopted 09/30/2003**

DEN02FA084 File No. 13953	07/31/2002	Greeley, CO	Aircraft Reg No. N7383G	Time (Local): 16:59 MDT		
Make/Model:	Cessna / 172K			Fatal	Serious	Minor/None
Engine Make/Model:	Lycoming / O-320-E20		Crew	1	1	0
Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed		Pass	0	0	0
Number of Engines:	1					
Operating Certificate(s):	None					
Type of Flight Operation:	Instructional					
Reg. Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation					
Last Depart. Point: Same as Accident/Incident Location				Condition of Light: Day		
Destination: Local Flight				Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility		
Airport Proximity: On Airport				Basic Weather: Visual Conditions		
Airport Name: Greeley-Weld County Airport				Lowest Ceiling: None		
Runway Identification: 09				Visibility: 10.00 SM		
Runway Length/Width (Ft): 6200 / 100				Wind Dir/Speed:		
Runway Surface: Asphalt				Temperature (°C): 37		
Runway Surface Condition: Dry				Precip/Obscuration: None / None		
Pilot-in-Command	Age: 32			Flight Time (Hours)		
Certificate(s)/Rating(s)				Total All Aircraft: 830		
Flight Instructor; Commercial; Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land				Last 90 Days: Unk/Nr		
Instrument Ratings				Total Make/Model: Unk/Nr		
Airplane				Total Instrument Time: 61		

The student pilot and flight instructor were departing for his third flight lesson; the density altitude was calculated to be 8,393 feet. The flight instructor said that the student began to level the airplane 5 to 10 seconds after liftoff. He said that he took hold of the yoke and assisted the student in adjusting the airplane's pitch to resume the departure climb, and then gave full aircraft control back to the student. The instructor said that he looked out of the airplane to see if there were any airplanes landing on the cross runway. Suddenly, and without warning, the flight controls went to the full forward position and the plane began to dive directly towards the runway. He said he grabbed the control yoke, but could not arrest the descent before the airplane impacted the runway. The student pilot was taking a non-approved for flight, prescription medication.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Occurrence #1:      LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) AIRCRAFT HANDLING - IMPROPER - DUAL STUDENT
2. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED
3. USE OF INAPPROPRIATE MEDICATION/DRUG - DUAL STUDENT
4. (C) SUPERVISION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)
5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH DENSITY ALTITUDE

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Occurrence #2:      IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

6. TERRAIN CONDITION - RUNWAY

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

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The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.  
the student pilot's improper handling of the airplane's controls (for reason undetermined), and the inadequate supervision of the flight instructor. A contributing factor was the high density altitude weather condition.